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## **RAPE VICTIMS NO LONGER RESPONSIBLE FOR COST OF SEXUAL ASSAULT EXAMINATION**

BISMARCK – Starting Sunday July 1, 2007, victims of rape and sexual assault crimes will not be forced to pay for medical examinations performed to collect evidence of the crime.

“A woman reporting a sexual assault or rape should not have to pay for the costs of the examination needed to obtain evidence to prosecute the offender,” said Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem.

2007 Senate Bill 2103 authorizes the Attorney General to provide reimbursement directly to the hospital or clinic where a sexual assault examination is performed. The reimbursement covers the cost of the examination and any antibiotics or other medications administered as part of the exam.

Senator Stanley Lyson, who was the primary sponsor of Senate Bill 2103 said, “This bill was long past due. The victims of these violent crimes should not be further victimized by having to pay for the state to collect the evidence it needs for prosecution. The least we can do is to have the state bear the cost of this examination, and now it will.”

The reimbursement form, instructions, and information about the process are available from the Office of Attorney General website, at [www.ag.nd.gov](http://www.ag.nd.gov) from the “News/Publications/Forms” link.